

Leicester, May 18/58.

Dear Burleigh,

I found you of the 9th awaiting
me on my return here from New York.
And I am greatly pleased to find that
you are disposed to take a favourable
view of the subject ^{and work} which I proposed
to you in my previous letter, and
I know I may add the thanks of
all the Committee for your willing ref.
to aid them in this work. — You
inquire "how soon the completion of
the work will be required". In answer,
I would say that the Committee have
fixed no limit, as yet, to the time which
may be taken for the work; and I
am of opinion that they will not wish to
set any precise time for its completion.
As you kindly undertake the labour,
they will leave it very much in your
hands and at your determination, when
it shall be performed and when finished, —
with this understanding however that the
sooner it is done, compatible with its

being done well and to your own satisfaction, the better they will like it. The delay has been so great already, that it is desirable not to protract it needlessly, while the very length of that delay is a reason why a few weeks, more or less, will appear but a trifling addition or diminution.

- I should say, then, - and I think I can speak in this for the Committee, - that the sooner you commence, and the more steadily you follow up, the work, without any hurrying, or any interfering with the main course of your Agency & other duties in Westⁿ Mapth, the better we shall be satisfied.

The amount of it is, we want the work done well, with as much compression of the material as possible (so that a fair historical Compend is made,) and as soon as conveniently to yourself it may be. -

I have written to S. H. Gay for his
Mss., so far as prepared, of the Report of
'56-57. We suppose that little or no
change will need to be made in it,
excepting in that portion which relates
to the Passmore Williamson case. That
was greatly spun out by Gay, and
presented a view of the Case not entirely
correct in our Committee's estimation,
and he said he should re-write the
whole of that portion. My impression
is he has never done any thing about it.
If the Mss. ^{of the P. Williamson case} he now, as it originally
was presented to us, the Comtee wish
it to be amended "by leaving out at least
two-thirds of it." - such was the desire
expressed at the Comtee meeting. To do this,
or to re-write the case, bringing it to the
same limits, I suppose would be
equally satisfactory to the Committee. -
I hope to receive the Mss. from Gay this
week, when I shall be able to tell whether
he has or has not done anything toward
re-writing that Case.

I shall also furnish you copies

Write to me at 21 Cornhill, until June 1st

of the Reports of former years - one Dr Linné's preparation and one Dr Gay's - as a general guide & help. But the Comtee by no means desire that you should be bound by any model, but that you should vary and amend wherever your judgment dictates a change. A file of the Standard will be your best Reference-work. Have you such, or can you obtain it in your vicinity? With that help, and the general plan of previous Reports before you, you cannot fail, I am confident, to go on with a clear vision and with success. But we shall be in duty bound to give you any aid in our power, as to plan, topics, &c. - on which you can write to me at any time and I will confer with the Committee.

Are you not coming to N. E. Convention next week? I hope so. We shall want to see & hear you. How shall I best send documents to you, in case you are not there?

Your last to me was ^{of} such general interest, and otherwise seemed so fitted for publication, that we did not doubt you had the possibility of that use of it in view. I am sure good has been done, and I hope no harm has.

Sincerely Yours, T. May Jr.

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 6, p. 96